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Message Text

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62
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2312
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21752

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, CB, PUNT
SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION IN PARIS

1. GKR CHARGE, HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG, TOLD EMBOFF HIS ASSIGNMENT AS DEPUTY PERMREP TO UN WAS VERY SUDDEN. HE REGRETTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN MADE MERELY A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION TO UNGA AND WOULD HAVE PREFERRED FORMAL TRANSFER TO NEW YORK AFTER PARIS POSTING PROBLEM RESOLVED. HE SHOULD NOT LEAVE PARIS UNTIL HIS SUCES-SOR, KENG VANNSAK, COULD ARRIVE AND TAKE UP HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. ALTHOUGH VANNSAK THOUGHT HE MIGHT ARRIVE AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 18, THE GOF HAD NOT YET EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED GKR REQUEST.

2. DOEUNG THOUGHT GOF OPINION OF VANNSAK MIGHT BE VERY LOW. IN THE DOCUMENTATION WHICH VANNSAK GAVE THE FRENCH EMBASSY, VANNSAK CLAIMED HE WOULD HAVE THE PREROGATIVES AND PRIVELEGES OF AN AMBASSADOR. DOEUNG THOUGHT THIS PRETENTION MIGHT BE USED BY GOF AS A PRETEXT FOR DELAYING OR REFUSING TO ACCEPT VANNSAK. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOF MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PERSONNEL SHIFT TO TRY TO DOWNGRADE VANNSAK TO CHARGE AVEC LETTRES, WHICH MIGHT REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THE
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EMBASSY HERE TO THAT OF A LEGATION.

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3. DOEUNG THOUGHT THAT OTHER DISADVANTAGES OF VANNSAK'S ASSIGNMENT WERE THAT HE WAS "NOT OF THE CAREER" AND FRENCH MIGHT OBJECT TO "POLITICAL APPOINTEE" PARTICULARLY ONE CHOSEN PERSONALLY BY LON NOL. IN ADDITION, VANNSAK'S WIFE RETAINS HER FRENCH NATIONALITY, AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCORD HER USUAL DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVELEGES.

4. IN SUM, DOEUNG THOUGHT CHANGE IN POSTING HAD BEEN DONE TOO HASTILY AND THE GKR WOULD PROBABLY END UP WITH NO FULL CHARGE IN PARIS OR NO DEPUTY PERMREP IN NEW YORK. IN ADDITION, THE WAY WAS OPEN FOR FRANCE TO DELIVER SOME NEW BLOW TO THE GKR, A BLOW WHICH WOULD BE MOST UNTIMELY WITH THE UN AND UNESCO CREDENTIALS BATTLES COMING UP.

5. FOR PHNOM PENH: SINCE GKR REQUEST FOR GOF ACCEPTANCE OF VANNSAK TOOK PLACE IN PHNOM PENH, PERHAPS GOF REPLY WILL SIMILARLY BE GIVEN THERE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING NATURE OF FRENCH REPLY, IF ANY, SINCE IT MAY BEAR ON OTHER ASPECTS OF FRENCH POLICY TOWARD GKR.
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